



Chronic Wasting Disease

Information for Taxidermists



Due to the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created a CWD Management Zone consisting of Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties. Surveillance of hunter-harvested deer will take place in the Management Zone.

In addition, a Core CWD Area has been established within the CWD Management Zone, which consists of Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Delhi, Alaiedon and Wheatfield townships in Ingham County; DeWitt and Bath townships in Clinton County; and Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County.

- All deer from the Core CWD Area must be registered within 72 hours of harvest at a DNR check station and the head of the deer collected for CWD testing.
- Registration must take place prior to taking a deer to a processor, taxidermist, or anywhere outside of the Core CWD Area.
- An orange CWD Survey Tag will be given to the hunter to keep with the deer head taken for taxidermy.
- Ask the hunter to present this tag before accepting their deer for taxidermy.
- If the hunter does not have this tag as proof of registration, the deer should not be accepted and the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory should be contacted (517-336-5030).
- The hunter must return the caped out, antlerless head to the DNR within 60 days from the initial registration date. The head should be kept frozen until it can be returned.

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When processing deer from the CWD Management Zone (especially the Core Area):

- Wear latex or rubber gloves.
- When caping out the head and removing antlers be careful to remove all visible brain and spinal cord material from the skull cap and cape.
- Minimize handling of brain and spinal material and dispose of immediately by bagging and placing in dumpsters intended for regulated landfills.
- Parts from potentially CWD-infected deer should not be rendered, burned, or placed in the landscape. Putting infected deer parts in the landscape allows scavengers to spread CWD prions over a greater area where they can remain infectious in the soil for many years and put other deer at risk.
- Thoroughly clean hands, processing tools, and work surfaces with soap and water; then sanitize tools and surfaces in a solution of 50 percent household chlorine bleach and 50 percent water for one hour. Rinse with warm water.
- Do not allow animals to have access to your taxidermy area or taxidermy waste.
- As a precaution, the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend that meat from CWD-infected animals not be consumed by either humans or domestic animals.



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